

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Corporate Governance Committee - 10 March 2014

South West Audit Partnership Governance Arrangements

Report of the Director - Operations (Shirlene Adam).

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Williams

1. Executive Summary

Full Council (March 2013) approved the governance arrangements for Taunton Deane Borough Council re South West Audit Partnership Ltd.

This report amends the Officer "Director" for Taunton Deane Borough Council to reflect the responsibilities set out in the new Joint Management Team.

2. Background

- 2.1 South West Audit Partnership was formed in 2005 to deliver the internal audit function to two authorities in the Somerset. By 2013 the partnership had expanded to twelve partners across the South West and a different form of governance model was needed.
- 2.2 Reports to our Corporate Governance Committee (Feb 2013) and our Full Council (March 2013) outlined the proposal to form a Company Limited by Guarantee – South West Audit Partnership Ltd. The reports explained the governance that would be put in place and Taunton Deane's appointments to the Members Board and the Board of Directors.
- 2.3 Since the Company was formed in April 2013, the representation on the Members Board has been undertaken by the Chair of Corporate Governance Committee. This is working well and there is no need to make any changes.
- 2.4 Representation at Officer level – as a Director on the Board has been undertaken by the Deputy s151 Officer (with the Client & Corporate Services Manager acting as Alternate). Clearly with the new Joint Management Team arrangements now in place we need to amend this to reflect new roles and responsibilities.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1 The Board of Directors continues to be a "hands on" role and it is appropriate that this continues to be carried out by Officers.
- 3.2 The Assistant Director – Corporate Services is responsible for the audit function and should now be this Council's Director on South West Audit Partnership Ltd.
- 3.3 The "Alternate" should be the Assistant Director – Resources.

4. Financial Issues / Comments

4.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

5. Legal Comments

5.1 Good, transparent governance arrangements are essential. The Director on the Board of South West Audit Partnership Ltd will have legal responsibilities to the Company.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

No direct implications.

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

No direct implications.

8. Equalities Impact

No implications.

9. Risk Management

Any risks identified will feed in to the corporate risk management process.

10. Partnership Implications

The CEO of South West Audit Partnership Ltd has been briefed on and is fully supportive of our proposal.

11. Recommendation

That Members of Corporate Governance Committee request Full Council to approve the nomination of:-

- a. the Assistant Director – Corporate Services as this Councils Director on the Board of South West Audit Partnership Ltd
- b. the Assistant Director – Resources as the Alternate Director.

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